

New Hampshire's population continues to grow

The Granite State claimed nearly 52,000 more residents since 2000

New Hampshire's population doubled from 1960 to 2000. This growth trend continued as the state's population grew another 4.2 percent (or 52,000 residents) during the first three years of the new millenium, reaching 1,287,687 in 2003. Only twelve states experienced population growth faster than New Hampshire during that time. The rest of New England had population increases ranging from 2.7 percent in Rhode Island to 1.3 percent in Massachusetts.

Nevada recorded the only statewide double-digit increase in population during this time period, 12.2 percent. Arizona's population increased by 8.8 percent; nationally population increased 3.3 percent from 2000 to 2003. What caused this increase in New Hampshire residents? Population can increase two ways. First, is natural increase. This simply means there were more births than deaths in the state during a given time period. Second is migration. Internal migration refers to those who moved to

New Hampshire from another state. International migration refers to those who moved to New Hampshire from outside the United States.

Natural Increase

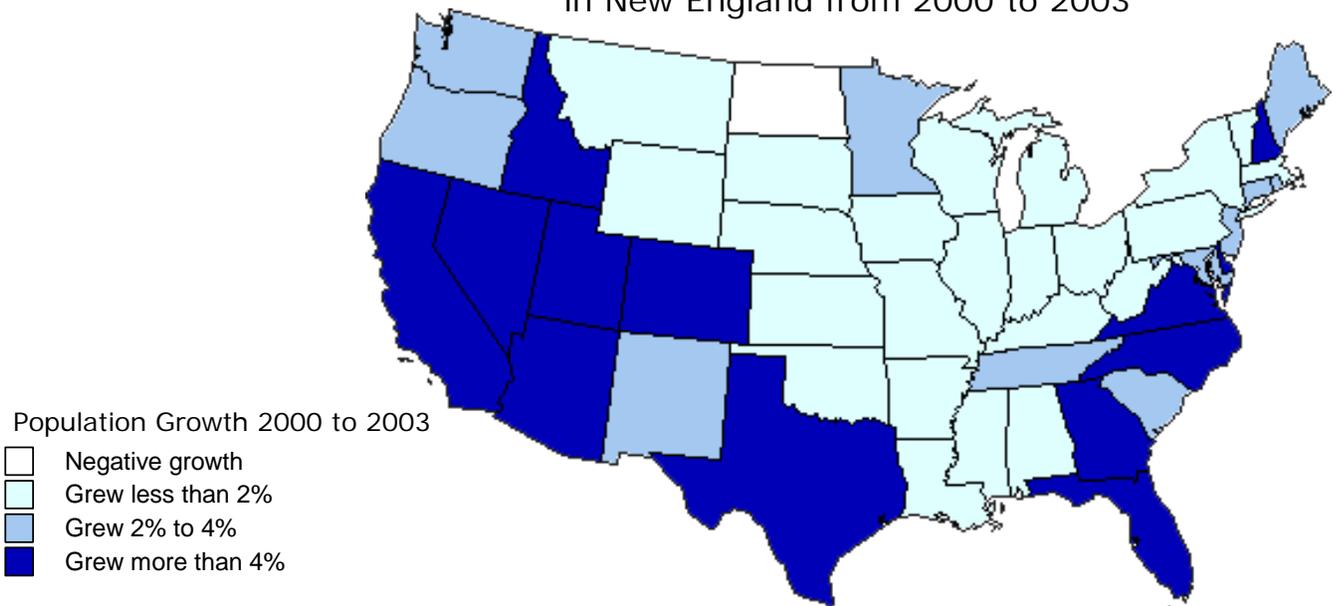
Just over 15,000 new residents were a result of natural increase from 2000 to 2003. Not surprisingly, the four most populous counties - Hillsborough, Rockingham, Merrimack, and Strafford - became home to almost all of these new residents. Conversely, Coos, Carroll, and Belknap counties each recorded more deaths than births during this three-year period.

Migration

Migration is a key component to the Granite State's population growth. Because of its quality of life, low tax burden, and educated work force, New Hampshire is a desirable destination for many people and companies. From 2000 to 2003, roughly 37,000 of the 52,000 new residents were a result of migration.

Continued on page 5

New Hampshire had the fastest population growth in New England from 2000 to 2003



Internal Migration

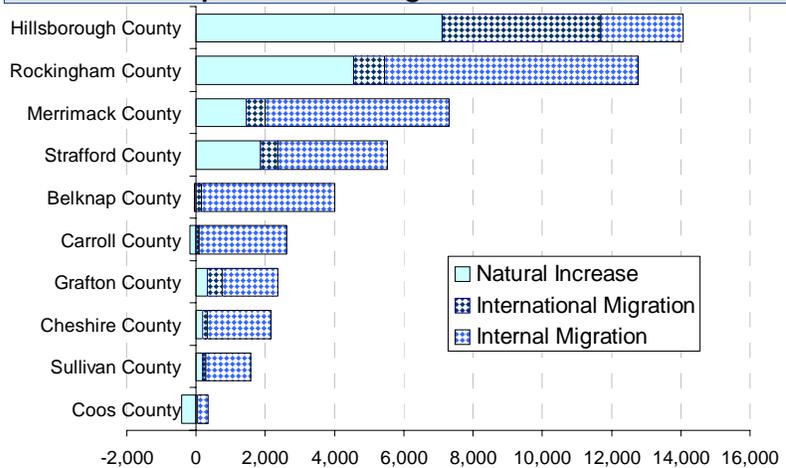
Nearly 30,000 of the new residents moved into New Hampshire from another state, the majority from the neighboring states of Massachusetts, Maine, and Vermont. Where did they move? Just over 7,300 moved to Rockingham County while another 5,300 moved to Merrimack County from 2000 to 2003. Hillsborough County, the most populous county in New Hampshire, claimed only about 2,400 of these new residents.

It is interesting to note that the increase in population in the rest of the counties, although not as large, was primarily the result of internal migration. The more rural areas of New Hampshire may have been a destination to those living in cities in the surrounding states.

International Migration

Roughly 7,500 more residents moved into the Granite State from another country between 2000 and 2003. Where did they move? An overwhelming majority, nearly 4,600, of these new residents moved to Hillsborough County. This county is home to the state's two largest cities, which may provide more options for people looking to move to the state. Another 900 moved to Rockingham County, while Merrimack and Strafford

New Hampshire's population increase by county came mostly from migration, except for Hillsborough County where the increase was split between migration and natural increase



Counties each became home to about 500 new residents from 2000 to 2003.

Will this growth continue? According to New Hampshire's Office of Energy and State Planning, yes. They project New Hampshire will be home to another 350,000 residents by 2025. That's like adding the population of Concord every three years. Some communities already have master plans to help them address the issues of added demand on education systems, housing situations, and the environment caused by large population growth. Other municipalities may need to follow suit as the population spreads to their community.

Elisabeth Picard

Components of Population Change for New Hampshire and its Counties, 2000 - 2003

Area	Population Change		Natural Increase			Net Migration		
	Net 2000 to 2003	Percent 2000 to 2003	Total	Births	Deaths	Total	Net International Migration	Net Internal Migration
New Hampshire	51,901	4.2%	15,006	47,194	32,188	37,082	7,454	29,628
Belknap County	4,031	7.2%	-48	1,838	1,886	4,014	150	3,864
Carroll County	2,468	5.7%	-186	1,217	1,403	2,613	91	2,522
Cheshire County	2,140	2.9%	186	2,496	2,310	1,978	137	1,841
Coos County	-92	-0.3%	-420	958	1,378	350	39	311
Grafton County	2,295	2.8%	321	2,528	2,207	2,028	442	1,586
Hillsborough County	13,822	3.6%	7,116	16,126	9,010	6,957	4,578	2,379
Merrimack County	7,397	5.4%	1,440	5,129	3,689	5,864	540	5,324
Rockingham County	12,743	4.6%	4,548	10,768	6,220	8,218	898	7,320
Strafford County	5,507	4.9%	1,863	4,610	2,747	3,665	495	3,170
Sullivan County	1,590	3.9%	186	1,524	1,338	1,395	84	1,311

Source: US Census Bureau Numbers may not add due to residuals from National Population Control